

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 14 and 16, and cancel claims 1-5 and 15, as set forth in the listing of claims that follows:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A pin housing sub-assembly for use in a valve deactivation hydraulic valve lifter, said pin housing sub-assembly comprising:
a pin housing;
a plunger return spring disposed in a well in said pin housing;
a plunger sub-assembly disposed against said spring;
a pushrod seat assembly spaced apart from said plunger sub-assembly to provide a hydraulic chamber therebetween within said pin housing;
a first groove formed in said pin housing;
a second groove formed in said pin housing, said second groove being positioned between said first groove and an open end of said pin housing; and
an expansion member disposed in said second groove, said expansion member adapted to be moved from said second groove and into the first groove so that said pin housing is coupled with a spring tower during the assembly of said hydraulic valve lifter.

7. (Previously Presented) A pin housing sub-assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the depth of said second groove is between .004 inches and .005 inches.

8. (Previously Presented) A pin housing sub-assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the depth of said first groove is greater than the depth of said second groove.

9. (Previously Presented) A pin housing sub-assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein an inner edge of said second groove is chamfered.

10. (Previously Presented) A pin housing sub-assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said inner edge of said second groove is chamfered about 15 degrees.

11. (Previously Presented) A pin housing sub-assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said first groove is annular.

12. (Previously Presented) A pin housing sub-assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said second groove is annular.

13. (Previously Presented) A pin housing sub-assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said spring tower includes a beveled edge that operates to move said expansion member from said second groove into said first groove.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling ~~a pin housing sub-assembly~~ for use in a valve deactivation hydraulic valve lifter, wherein said comprising a pin housing sub-assembly that includes a pin housing, a plunger return spring, a plunger sub-assembly, a pushrod seat assembly, an expansion ring, a first groove formed in the pin housing, and a second annular groove formed in the pin housing and positioned between the first annular groove and an open end of the pin housing, said method comprising:

disposing the plunger return spring in a well in the pin housing;

disposing the plunger sub-assembly against said spring;

spacing the pushrod seat assembly apart from the plunger sub-assembly to provide a hydraulic chamber therebetween within the pin housing; and

disposing the expansion ring in the second annular groove thereby retaining the plunger return spring, the plunger sub-assembly, and the pushrod seat assembly within the pin housing to form the assembled pin housing sub-assembly and coupling a spring tower to said pin housing sub-assembly, whereby during coupling the expansion ring is moved out of the second groove and into the first groove.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with Claim 14 15 wherein the spring tower includes a beveled edge, and wherein the beveled edge moves the expansion ring out of the second annular groove and into the first annular groove.

17. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the spring tower includes a ring groove, and wherein the expansion ring is positioned within both the first annular groove and the ring groove.